

# The Creed

## What does creed mean?

A Creed is a formal statement of faith that summarizes a core belief.



The concept of a  
Creed provides  
foundational  
elements of faith,  
such as a covenant  
with humankind  
and what they trust.



God's covenant  
with His creation  
of the world and  
His promises to His  
people are often  
reflected in creeds.



Using a creed, you  
profess your faith in the  
Triune God.

Additionally, we  
proclaim our faith  
through the words of the  
Creed when we worship  
God during our service.



There are three creeds  
in the Christian faith,  
on which our  
foundation stands,  
three articles of faith.



These articles are about:  
the Father, the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit.

The names of these  
Creeds that Lutherans  
use in worship and as  
part of our foundational  
faith are:



**Apostles' Creed:** Second Century  
and Unknown author.

**Nicene Creed:** Year 325  
(Assembly of Church Leaders at  
the Council of Nicaea (325) and  
the Council of Constantinople.

## Athanasian Creed:

Sixth-Eighth Century and  
Unknown Author. Named  
after the great Church Father  
Athanasius.

# Apostles' Creed



We will walk over the  
Apostles' Creed that is used  
the most in our worship and  
other events.



The Apostles' Creed is commonly used in baptism, and it tells us the most essential truths about God.

The creed is presented in three simple parts to summarize the divine work of God associated with each person.



Father (creation), Son (redemption), and Holy Spirit (sanctification).

“God triune, a Holy Trinity.”

What does Trinity mean?

By presenting this article, we are talking about three persons in one God. Three in one.



The Church used the word Trinity to maintain the Bible's witness that the Father, Son, and Spirit are three distinct persons and, yes, are one God.

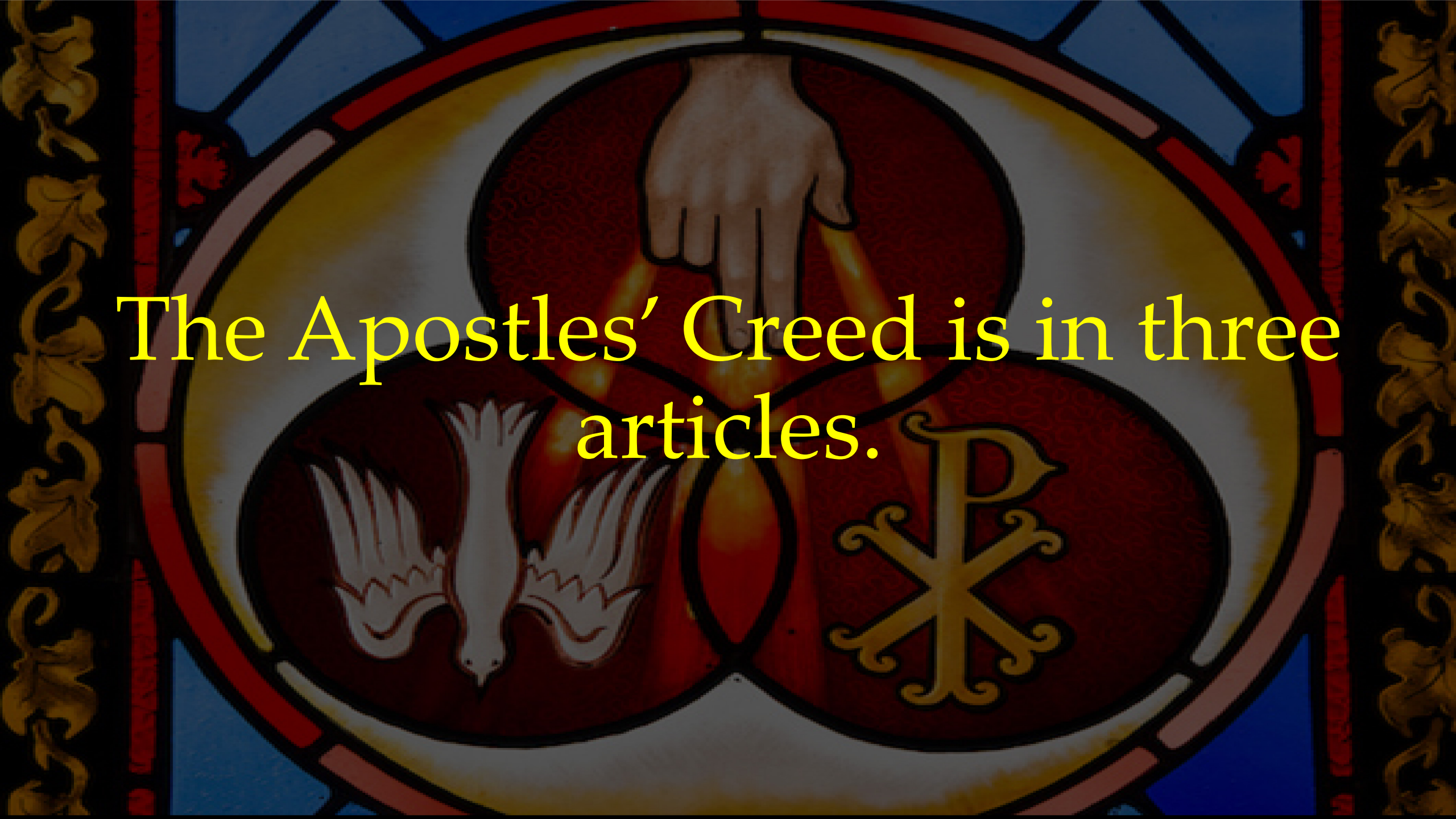


This is the greatest mystery of the Christian faith.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

(Matthew 28.19)

The Apostles' Creed is in three articles.





# First Article “God Creator”

I believe in God, the Father  
Almighty, maker of heaven  
and earth.

## Second Article “God Redeemer”



And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.



He descended into hell. The  
third day, He rose again from  
the dead.



He ascended into heaven and  
sits at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty.



From thence He will come to  
judge the living and the dead.

# Third Article “God Comforter”



I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# Article 1: Creation



“I believe in God, the Father  
Almighty, Maker of heaven  
and earth.”

This article focuses on God as the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Luther explains in the Small Catechism that God has given us our body, soul, reason, and all our senses, and still takes care of them.



# What does this mean?



Only God “could create heaven and earth.” With this truth, I understand myself and how I relate to God and his world. We are created in relationship to God and to the rest of the world. Read Genesis 2:7-25 to understand where we come from.

As Christians, we confess,  
“I am God’s creature”.



Why do we believe God the  
Father made us?

God made every person in  
this world, regardless of  
age, sex, race, or ethnicity.

Every person receives life just as you do. All other living creatures receive life from God and depend upon God's care, just as you do.



# How did God create everything?

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1 and by God's word it was made.





“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.” Psalms 33:6

We are unique among all  
creations. Why?

God created all living things, but  
He uniquely made humanity in  
His image. We were made in  
God's image, after God's likeness.

God created man in His image  
and the image of God He  
created him; Male and Female  
He created them.

(Genesis 1:26-27)



# Do we still have the image of God?

Since the fall into sin, we lost the ability to live by faith in God, in perfect love toward one another, and in a proper relationship to creation. Therefore, we have lost sight of the image of God.



But we still possess unique dignity as those who were created in the image of God and were given dominion in creation.

# Another view of God as our creator.



As creatures, we need specific necessities to nourish and support our lives on earth.



As Christians, we confess that  
God provides for us each and  
every day by working in and  
through His creation.

God is not apart from His creation. We are sometimes apart from Him. He defends me against all danger and guards me and protects me from all evil. But how can this happen if you are apart from God?



# God is involved with His creation.



God remains present and active within His creation, constantly looking after it and creating new life within it. God is our creator and protects us from evil.

**But** why do suffering and death exist in the world?

Our first parent brought evil and suffering into the world by rebelling against God. Sinful activity continues to cause tremendous suffering across the globe.

God punished human rebellion by  
cursing the earth:

Even though the earth sustains life,  
God's judgment is also evident  
(storms, pests, earthquakes,  
diseases, and so forth).

We need to repent of our sin,  
trust God's promise of  
forgiveness in Christ, care for  
those who suffer, and pray for  
God's restoration of all things  
when Christ comes again.

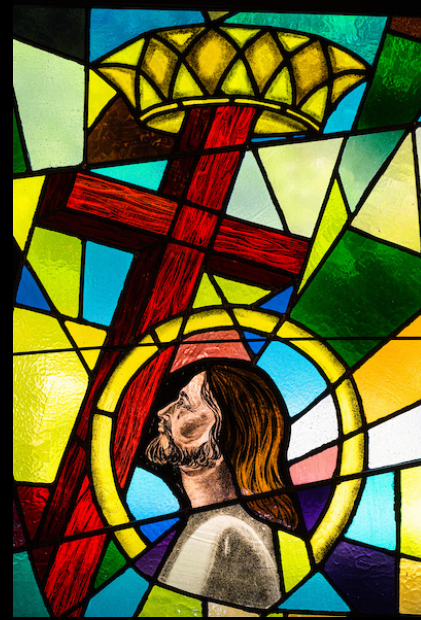
# Article 2: Redemption

“And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...”



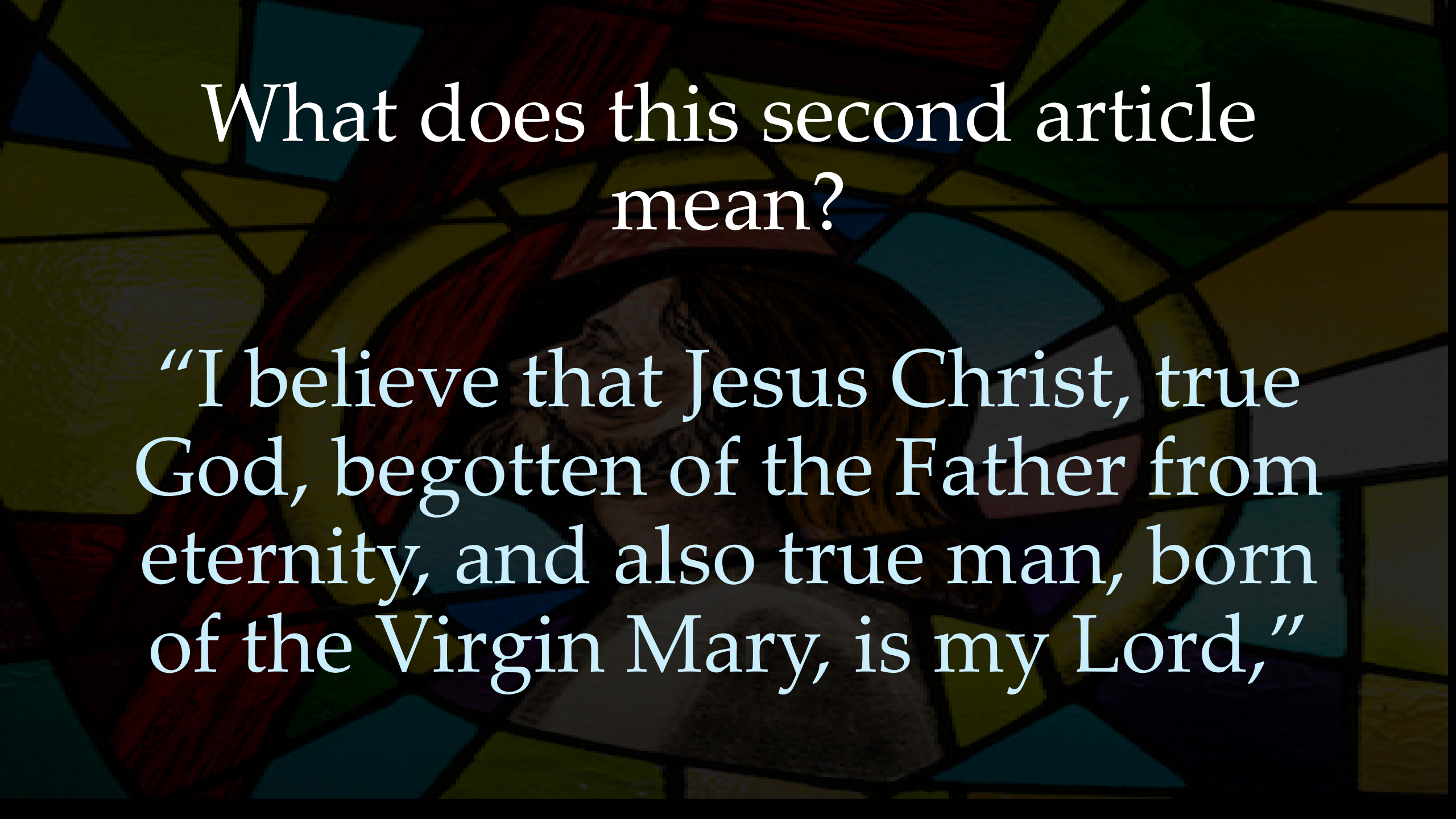
Through this article, we can learn who Jesus is and how much He means to us who believe in Him.

This article highlights the work of Jesus Christ, who was sent by the Father to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.



Luther's explanation in the Small Catechism emphasizes **that** Jesus has purchased and won us, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death.



The background is a dark, stained-glass style image. It features a central figure of Jesus Christ with long, wavy brown hair and a beard, wearing a red robe. The figure is set against a circular, sunburst-like pattern. The surrounding areas are filled with various colored glass panes in shades of blue, green, and brown, separated by dark lead lines.

What does this second article  
mean?

“I believe that Jesus Christ, true  
God, begotten of the Father from  
eternity, and also true man, born  
of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,”

Jesus once asked, "Who do people say that I am?"



He received many different answers. "Son of God, a Prophet, Christ, Messiah..."

What do people today think of Jesus? Have you ever thought about what Jesus is to you?

As Christians, we confess, “This man Jesus is God and Lord: He is both my Creator and my Redeemer.”

Confessing that Jesus is Lord  
means acknowledging that He  
rules over all things as our  
Creator and Redeemer, and  
Jesus is the Lord God Himself  
in our human flesh.

"Jesus is God and Begotten of the  
Father"

Therefore, we acknowledge that  
Jesus is the true God and begotten  
of the Father from eternity.

He is the eternal Son of God,

Who entered human history, born as a man with a body and soul, in fulfillment of God's Old Testament promise. Which is something that might confuse you when you hear

God as a Creator and God as a  
Creature, to show the  
equivalent of God and man in  
one person.

The Son is God: The Son has no beginning.

The Son is Human: Jesus is in the very same sense that we are human, except without sin.

## Our Redeemer

This means that Jesus has redeemed us through His death and resurrection, giving us Hope in our daily lives.

Does the Bible say explicitly that  
Jesus is both God and man?

The answer is Yes.

There is no other way to  
understand and to support than  
by following the scriptures.

“And the Word became flesh  
and dwelt among us, and we  
have seen his glory, glory as of  
the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.”

(John 1:14)

What could be the best summary  
to describe who Jesus is?

In the three creeds of the Christian Church: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the longer Athanasian Creed.

Every Christian should know  
at least the first one from  
memory.

The Apostles' Creed

By believing in Jesus, you're  
Guilty but Free.

Guilty because of our sinful nature.

We are constantly exposed to  
committing sins.

Free through forgiveness. To  
understand how easy or hard it is,  
reflect on yourself and your neighbor.

Do you think it is easy to forgive?

That's the part God helps you to understand when He forgives you. This is God's grace, mercy, and love to his children.



# Article 3: Sanctification

“I believe in the Holy Spirit...”



This article focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church.

Luther teaches that it is the Spirit who works faith in our hearts through the Word and Sacraments.



After Jesus' resurrection, He returned to the Father in heaven. We, as Christians, call it the Ascension of the Lord.



But Jesus promised His disciples that after he departed from the earth, the holy Spirit would come to them.



When the Holy Spirit came to them, this date was marked as the “Day of Pentecost”.



Our Sanctification came with  
the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit of God gives  
us the power and strength to  
believe and grow as true and  
faithful believers.



Also, becoming servants of the Lord to help others to come to Jesus' feet and follow him and his word.



One of the most significant tasks performed by the Holy Spirit is to gather, enlighten, and sanctify the whole Christian Church on earth, keeping it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.



In the Christian Church, the Holy Spirit helps me to acknowledge that through faith in Jesus, we receive daily and rich forgiveness for all our sins.

Holy Spirit: Calls, Gathers,  
Enlightens, Sanctifies, and  
Keeps us.



As Christians, “We confess that the Holy Spirit has made us new creatures by bringing us to salvation in Jesus Christ. And it is granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel.”



Christians try in vain to  
explain who and how God is,  
remembering all that God has  
done.



Theologians have written creeds (statements of faith) and taught doctrines affirming what we do know:

- **God is One**, but in Him there are three distinct persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

